



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 5639

LCO No. 2315

* _____HB05639GAE____042606_____*

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COUNCIL TO
ADVISE THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES ON MATTERS
RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE
MEDICARE PART D PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
2 council which shall advise the Commissioner of Social Services on
3 matters relating to the administration and implementation of the
4 Medicare Part D program, established pursuant to Public Law 108-173,
5 the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act
6 of 2003. The council shall advise on matters that include, but are not
7 limited to, (1) the effect of the implementation of the Medicare Part D
8 program on: (A) The administration and operation of the ConnPACE
9 and Medicaid programs, (B) persons in the state who are full benefit
10 dually eligible Medicare Part D beneficiaries, as defined in subsection
11 (a) of section 17b-265d of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes,
12 (C) state pharmacies and pharmacists, (D) physicians and other
13 persons who are authorized to prescribe drugs within the state, and (E)
14 prescription drug coverage, benefits and costs for program
15 beneficiaries, and (2) the administration of the Medicare Part D

16 Supplemental Needs Fund, established pursuant to section 17b-265e of
17 the 2006 supplement to the general statutes. In addition, the council
18 shall provide legislative recommendations to the General Assembly
19 concerning the administration and implementation of the Medicare
20 Part D program by the Department of Social Services, and may
21 provide federal legislative recommendations concerning the Medicare
22 Part D program to members of the state's congressional delegation.

23 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

24 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
25 who shall be pharmacists, licensed pursuant to chapter 400j of the
26 general statutes, employed at pharmacies located in urban areas;

27 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
28 shall be pharmacists, licensed pursuant to chapter 400j of the general
29 statutes, employed at pharmacies located in rural areas;

30 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
31 Representatives, who shall be a physician licensed pursuant to chapter
32 370 of the general statutes;

33 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
34 a psychiatrist licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes;

35 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
36 Representatives, who shall be a consumer representative;

37 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
38 an attorney with expertise in Medicare advocacy;

39 (7) The Commissioners of Social Services and Public Health, or their
40 designees; and

41 (8) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
42 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
43 relating to human services and public health and the chairpersons and
44 ranking members of the select committee of the General Assembly

45 having cognizance of matters relating to aging.

46 (c) All appointments to the council shall be made not later than
 47 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
 48 filled by the appointing authority.

49 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
 50 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the council,
 51 from among the members of the council. The chairpersons shall
 52 schedule the first meeting of the council, which shall be held not later
 53 than sixty days after the effective date of this section. Thereafter, the
 54 council shall meet quarterly and more often upon the call of the
 55 chairpersons or a majority of its members.

56 (e) The Joint Committee on Legislative Management shall provide
 57 administrative support to the council.

58 (f) On or before January 15, 2007, and annually thereafter, the
 59 council shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general
 60 statutes, on its activities to the joint standing committees of the General
 61 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and
 62 public health and to the select committee of the General Assembly
 63 having cognizance of matters relating to aging.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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HS *Joint Favorable*

GL *Joint Favorable*

PH *Joint Favorable*

GAE *Joint Favorable*